

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /101 W

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R 141719Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3728

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 1870

E.O. 11652: XGDS1, DECLAS 12-31-92

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, CA

SUBJECT: ELECTION 74: OTTAWA JOURNA EDITOR PREDICTS
STANFIELD VICTORY

JOHN GRACE, EDITORIAL EDITOR OF THE OTTAWA JOURNAL,
EXPRESSED THE FOLLOWING VIEWS TO THE POL COUNSELOR CON-
CERNING THE CANADIANELECTION, US-CANADIANRELATIONS,
NATO AND NORAD:

1. ELECTIONS -- HE BELIEVES THAT THE TIDE IS TURNING
AGAINST TRUDEAU AND THE LIBERAL PARTY AND THAT STANFIELD
WILL BE THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA -- PERHAPS
EVEN WITH A MAJORITY.GRACE CONCEDES THAT HIS PRE-
DICTION REFLECTS HIS PREFERENCE: HE THINKS IT IS TIME
TO END TRUDEAUMANIA IN CANADA AND THAT BOTH CANADA AND
THE LIBERAL PARTY WOULD BENEFIT FROM A CHANGE OF
LEADERSHIP HE BELIEVES THAT TRUDEAU WILL ONLY
GAIN SEATS IN QUEBEC AND THAT ELSEWHERE STANFIELD
WILL MAKE SUFFICIENT GAINS TO ENSURE A CONSERVATIVE
VICTORY.

2. STANFIELD'S WAGE AND PRICE FREEZE -- WHILE HOPING
FOR A CONSERVATIVE VICTORY, GRACE SAID STANFIELD'S
WAGE AND PRICE FREEZE PROPOSAL -- NOW TO BE RETRO-
ACTIVE -- BAFFLES AND CONCERNS HIM. (EVIDENTLY NOT
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ENOUGH TO CAUSE HIM TO OPPOSE STANFIELD. LIKE MANY

CONSERVATIVE SUPPORTERS, GRACE APPARENTLY DOES NOT BELIEVE IT WILL EVER BE IMPLEMENTED IN ITS PRESENT FORM SHOULD STANFIELD BECOME PRIME MINISTER.)

3. POST-ELECTION -- IN THE EVENT OF A CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WITH ONLY A PLURALITY AND THEREFORE DEPENDENT UPON THIRD PARTY SUPPORT, HE BELIEVES (AND HOPES) THE LIBERALS WOULD COOPERATE WITH THE CONSERVATIVES SO THAT DAVID LEWIS AND THE NDP WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO FORCE NEW ELECTIONS PREMATURELY. IF, AS HE EXPECTS, THE LIBERALS LOSE, HE ARGUES THAT AS A PARTY THEY WILL NEED TIME TO REBUILD THEIR SUPPORT IN ENGLISH-SPEAKING CANADA. THE FIRST STEP IN SUCH AN OPERATION WOULD BE TO SELECT A NEW NATIONAL LEADER TO REPLACE TRUDEAU, ACCORDING TO GRACE.

4. NEW FOREIGN MINISTER -- UNDER A TORY GOVERNMENT, GRACE WOULD EXPECT EITHER GORDON FAIRWEATHER (NEW BRUNSWICK) OR HEATH MACQUARRIE (PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND) TO BE FOREIGN MINISTER. EVEN IF CLAUDE WAGNER, THE PRESENT TORY FOREIGN AFFAIRS CRITIC, IS REELECTED -- WHICH IS UNCERTAIN -- HE DOES NOT BELIEVE STANFIELD WOULD GIVE HIM THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO. LIKEWISE, GRACE WOULD NOT EXPECT TRUDEAU TO RETAIN SHARP AS FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE EVENT OF A LIBERAL VICTORY. (AND LIKE OTHER OBSERVERS, HE BELIEVES SHARP IS IN VERY SERIOUS TROUBLE IN HIS TORONTO RIDING.) RATHER, HE THINKS THAT JOHN TURNER, THE PRESENT FINANCE MINISTER, WOULD BE THE PRIMIN'S FIRST CHOICE.

5. CANADA-US RELATIONS -- GRACE NOT ONLY DOES NOT BELIEVE CANADA-US RELATIONS WILL BE AN ISSUE IN THE CURRENT ELECTION BUT HE SEES NO REASON WHY THEY SHOULD NOT CONTINUE IN THEIR PRESENT HARMONIOUS STATE. HE WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING IN CANADA HAS PEAKED AND THAT THE TRADITIONAL FORCES OF MODERATION WILL MUTE RECENT MANIFESTATIONS OF THIS HOSTILITY. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT THE BASIC COMMON SENSE AND GOOD WILL OF THE CANADIAN PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO BLOCK EFFECTIVELY SUCH SENTI-
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MENTS FROM HAVING A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE CONDUCT AND COURSE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

6. NATO AND NORAD -- GRACE BELIEVES CANADA WILL CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE AND COOPERATE IN NATO AND NORAD. HE BELIEVES TRUDEAU WOULD HAVE PULLED CANADA OUT OF NATO WHEN HE FIRST TOOK OVER BUT MODERATES LIKE JOHN TURNER FORCED HIM TO ABNDON THAT OPTION

AND INSTEAD CUT CANADA'S TROOP LEVELS IN EUROPE.
HOWEVER, THERE IS A QUESTION IN HIS MIND WHETHER ANY
CANADIAN PARLIAMENT WOULD APPROPRIATE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR
AN EXPENSIVE RE-EQUIPMENT OF NATO FORCES.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, ELECTION CANDIDATES, ELECTION FORECASTS, ELECTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OTTAWA01870
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1 19921231
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740155-0529
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740644/aaaablqj.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <01 AUG 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTION 74: OTTAWA JOURNA EDITOR PREDICTS STANFIELD VICTORY
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005